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sexual disorders. As to the rate and direction of destruction of the mind in epilepsy (which after all is only provisionally a "disease," rather than a group of symptoms which happen to occur together, often under very various conditions), Dr. Savage thinks that either memory may be chiefly affected, when dementia may supervene in extreme cases, or that loss of control, more liable in furious cases, may be caused, when mania may result. Severe fits at long intervals are less degenerative than slight ones following each other at frequent intervals, for the latter preclude the possibility of the accumulation of energy, drawing it off as fast as it is stored. The other relations, lightly touched on, between muscular and psychic automatism in the status epilepticus are of great interest to the psychologist.

*Der Verlauf der Psychosen.* Von R. ARNDT, Professor der Psychiatrie an der Universität Greifswald, und Dr. A. DOHM. Wien, 1887, pp. 48.

In Arndt's *Lehrbuch für Psychologie*, 1883, an attempt, too little noted, had been made to reduce psychoses to the more scientific laws of nervous excitation and muscle contraction as demonstrated in experimental physiology. This, it was said, brought forms of psychoses, commonly regarded as remote, near together, and gave a new and transparent basis of classification. Psychoses are no longer diseases, but symptoms, like pain, cramp, etc. Instead of regarding melancholy, *e. g.*, as a state of depression and mania as a state of exaltation, each is conceived as an hyperaesthesia or hyperthymia, occasioned in the former case by a depressed and in the latter case by an exalted ego. Melancholy is thus widely distinguished from stupor, with which it is often too closely associated in classification, and furor may be melancholic or maniacal. In place of the ever growing complexity of psychiatric classification, Arndt would group all forms of psychoses about the fundamental laws, that feeble stimuli arouse nervous activity, medium stimuli increase it, strong inhibit, and very strong destroy it. Fourteen colored tables, representing as many typical cases from the insane asylum at Greifswald, are presented graphically to illustrate the above principles according to a method first presented by Dohm, the other author, in an inaugural dissertation in 1885. In these ingenious tables an ideal or indifference line represents repose or normal poise. From this horizontal middle line, a curve representing departures from this state is either upward toward mania or downward toward melancholia. To a certain extent up or down these fluctuations of "ergasia" are still within the latitude or tropics of health. Departure beyond these limits either way has seven degrees up or down, expressed by moods or acts of increasing abnormality, and culminating both ways in unconscious acts explosive (as distinct from impulsive) in their character. The aesthesias or "modifications of feeling or self-consciousness," are divided into ten forms, and are represented by hatched and cross-hatched lines constituting the background of the curve. Finally, paraesthesias are on violet; hypochondriacal cases on brown; hysterical on green; alcoholic on blue, and epileptic on red background. Color in the last four cases shows thus the constitutional anomaly on the basis of which the psychosis is unfolded. The significance of the hatching is thus explained. Every form of self-expression is reflex. If sensations are retarded and inhibited, as they are especially liable to be in hyperaesthesia

states, so that their reflex effects do not readily flow off in the motor, secretory or trophic regions, a sense of psychalgia or melancholia results; conversely, if the system is less sensitive, and stimuli pass to their reflex effects without inhibition or with loss tension, feelings of pleasure tending towards mania arise, and the consciousness of the ego is exalted.

*Chorea und Psychose.* Dr. SCHUCHARDT. Allg. Zeitschr. f. Psychiatrie, January, 1887.

After an extended and valuable sketch of the history of medical opinion concerning chorea, in which it is shown that the St. Vitus Dance of the Middle Ages, or chorea magna, is more nearly allied to hysteria than to true chorea, and that there is a widely extended opinion among writers upon chorea that it is closely allied with forms of psychic disturbance, Dr. Schuchardt describes six new cases, and concludes that the choreic type of psychosis is characterized by intense irritability and a strong inclination to quite sudden outbreaks of violence. The alien movements are often the first symptoms of impending psychic dissolution. It is now quite well established that the seat of pure chorea is in the brain, and chiefly in the grey substance of both the basal ganglia and the cortex. Its contagious nature by imitation, the close relation between motion and sensation generally, Meynert's conception of chorea as a convulsive phenomenon of irradiation of the fore-brain, the fact that choreic movements desist in sleep and are increased by mental excitement and by passion and fright, all indicate its close affinity with psychic processes. Congruent groups of muscles must constrict distinctly and in definite order if co-ordinated motions are to be produced. If the excentric impulse from the volition centres finds this plexus or series of associated constrictions broken up or inverted or unevenly interrupted, and the symptoms of chorea are present, and causes or is the concomitant of dissolutive, degenerative symptoms in the psychic zones.

*Dichterische Einbildungskraft und Wahnsinn.* Prof. DILTHEY. Leipzig, 1886, pp. 30.

The author opposes the commonly asserted kinship between genius and insanity. They are as unlike as the heat from healthy play or superfluous vitality and the heat of disease. A genius differs from common men in having more energy, in taking greater pleasure in his mental processes, is not pathological, but a perfect or superior type of man. His reciprocity with his environment is closer, his mental images, though vivid, numerous and spontaneous, as is shown by the interesting accounts of their mental processes given by several authors quoted, are especially distinguished, even in geniuses of the most demonic type, by being in closer and more logical relations with the environment and with each other.

*Konrad Deubler.* Von A. DODEL-PORT. 1886.

This remarkable work, in two large volumes, consists of day-book, biography, and correspondence of an Austrian peasant-philosopher. The son of a miner, apprenticed to a miller, later a baker, inn-keeper, guide, and peasant, engaged all his life in hard manual labor and suffering manifold afflictions and indignities, he gradually,